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APM-CIA-Hostages-270

CIA REPORTEDLY THOUGHT SOME HOSTAGES WOULD HAVE DIED IN RESCUE

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BELIEVED THAT 60 PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN IRAN WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED OR WOUNDED IF PRESIDENT CARTER'S RESCUE PLAN WAS CARRIED OUT AS PLANNED, KCBS RADIO REPORTED.

THE ALL-NEWS STATION, QUOTING A SOURCE IT SAID HAS BEEN "ACCURATE IN EVERY DETAIL SO FAR," SAID MONDAY THERE WAS A CIA REPORT SAYING "60 PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN CAPTIVES WERE LIKELY TO BE KILLED OR WOUNDED EVEN IF THE ASSAULT HAD GONE OFF AS PLANNED."

A CIA SPOKESMAN IN WASHINGTON WHO WAS NOT IDENTIFIED DECLINED COMMENT ON THE STORY.

THE STATION QUOTED THE SOURCE AS SAYING THE PLAN WAS APPROVED EVEN THOUGH THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF REPORTEDLY WERE GIVEN THE CIA DOCUMENT.

THE CIA BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FREE ALL THE HOSTAGES AT THE SAME TIME BECAUSE THEY WERE IN SMALL GROUPS IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE EMBASSY COMPOUND, KCBS SAID IT WAS TOLD BY THE SOURCE. THE DOCUMENT SAID THAT IF SOME OF THE HOSTAGES HAD BEEN FREED OTHERS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN EXECUTED, THE SOURCE SAID.

U.S. MILITARY MEN CARRIED MORE THAN \$1 MILLION IN IRANIAN CURRENCY TO "PAY LOCAL PARTISANS," THE STATION'S SOURCE CLAIMED.

PENTAGON OFFICIALS REFUSED COMMENT ON THE REPORT. THE CIA HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY LINKED WITH THE ABORTED RESCUE PLAN.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JODY POWELL DENIED IN WASHINGTON THAT CARTER DID NOT FOLLOW ADVICE FROM HIS MILITARY PLANNERS.

"AT NO TIME DID THE PRESIDENT DENY OR FAIL TO CONCUR IN ANY SUGGESTION FROM THE MILITARY PLANNERS FOR THE REQUISITE AMOUNT OF FORCE OR CAPABILITY WITH REGARD TO FIREPOWER OR TRANSPORT," POWELL SAID.

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